

business, automobile dealerships, marinas, restaurants, and most notably the houseboat industry where Jim and Mary Jo are recognized as the pioneers of the industry.

As successful as Mary Jo and Jim were in their business life, their real sense of pride and love was found in their family. They raised four children and nine grandchildren. Mary Jo, or "Mim" as her grandchildren call her, was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and the rock of the family. She was the heart, soul and guiding light helping to lead her children and grandchildren through the trials and tribulations of life. "Mim" was the eternal optimist always giving encouraging advice and making those around her a better person.

Mary Jo's other great love was for her church, First Baptist Church of Somerset. Jim and Mary Jo were married at First Baptist Church on April 4th, 1950. She was a lifelong member and taught the junior and senior girls Sunday school class. Mary Jo was instrumental in the construction of the new sanctuary for the church and was also the "Happy Birthday Voice" for First Baptist's outreach program.

In addition to raising her family and church duties, Mary Jo found time to be president of the local PTA and contribute in various ways to the educational system throughout her life. She also loved to sing and did so on local radio stations and at numerous weddings and funerals.

Mary Jo Sharpe was a graceful, friendly, caring, patriotic, beautiful woman. She believed that "positive things happen to positive people". Mary Jo was a Christian woman and an angel on earth and she is now basking in the glory of her Savior.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Mary Jo Sharpe. She will be sorely missed, but her legacy and character will continue to live on in the hearts and minds of her loving family and friends.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2008*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker unfortunately last night, September 15, 2008, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 1200, H. Con. Res. 390, and H.R. 6889, and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 589 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 1200, honoring the dedication and outstanding work of military support groups across the country for their steadfast support of the members of our Armed Forces and their families, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 590 on suspending the rules and passing H. Con. Res. 390, honoring the 28th Infantry Division for serving and protecting the United States, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 591 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 6889, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Education to purchase guaranteed student loans for an additional year, and for other purposes, I would have voted "aye."

#### IN RECOGNIZING OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF NAVAL AIR STATION WHITING FIELD

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2008*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the 65th anniversary of Naval Air Station, NAS, Whiting Field. The anniversary was quietly marked by a simple cake-cutting ceremony attended by over 100 northwest Florida dignitaries, Navy and Marine Corps League representatives, military personnel, Government civilians, and other base employees on July 16, 2008. This ceremony celebrated a long-lasting friendship between the base and surrounding community and served to further forge their wonderful relationship for many years to come. A much larger, formal ceremony will be held on October 25, 2008.

According to historian and U.S. Navy Retired CDR Doug Seigfried, the 65-year-old NAS Whiting Field is the busiest field in the Training Command and home to Training Wing Five's three T-34C primary/intermediate maritime prop squadrons, two TH-57B/C Sea Ranger helicopter training squadrons and the helicopter and fixed-wing instructor instructional units. Eighty-three percent of all student Naval aviators conduct a portion of their initial flight training at Whiting, which averages over 350 flights a day.

Construction began on the largest of Pensacola's auxiliary fields in early 1943 and was completed in November. The new field, located 35 miles northeast of Pensacola and 6 miles north of Milton, was planned to incorporate two individual fields about a mile from one another with base facilities located between them. Both Whiting's North and South Fields featured four 6,000-foot runways, a large parking mat and two big red-brick, hangars. Despite the fact that construction was not yet complete and assigned personnel were temporarily living in tents, the field was officially dedicated by RADM George D. Murray, commandant of the Naval Air Training Center, Pensacola, on July 16, 1943. In attendance at the ceremony was the recent widow of Captain Kenneth Whiting, Naval Aviator Number 16, for whom the field was named.

Fifteen days earlier, SNJs (the Navy's version of the North American T-6 Texan) of VN-3A and VN-3B from Chevalier and Saufley Fields had arrived at their new South Field home to inaugurate operations in basic and radio instrument instruction as part of the intermediate phase of the World War II training program. With the two fields completed, VN-8C and its large fleet of SNBs (Navy designated Beech Aircraft TC-45s) arrived at North Field from NAS Corry in November 1943. The squadron moved back to Corry in December 1944 and was replaced by operational training squadron VB4 OTU 4, flying Consolidated PB4Y-1 Liberators. With all the multi-engine and basic instrument instruction conducted at the base, a large building was constructed to house the numerous Link trainers and six big Link celestial navigation trainers manned by WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service).

After the war, Whiting became a naval air station under control of the new Naval Air Advanced Training Command, Jacksonville, Flor-

ida. Based at Whiting from 1946 to almost the end of 1947 were VB-2 and VB-4 advanced training units flying Consolidated PB4Y-2 Privateers and Lockheed PV-2 Venturas; the advanced carrier qualification and Landing Signals Officer training unit flying F6F Hellcats, SB2C Helldivers, TBM Avengers and SNJ-3/5Cs; and two photo training units flying the PB4Y-1P and F6F-5P.

Over the next several years, Whiting survived through reorganization of its missions and promotion of its newer facilities and longer runways. The first jets assigned to the Training Command were sent to Whiting Field in July 1948. From 1951 to 1956 Whiting Field devoted its total efforts to primary instruction. It was during this period that the Training Command introduced new aircraft, consolidated bases and made major syllabus changes to respond to the Navy's predominantly jet-equipped air wings and squadrons. In addition, in December 1959, the multi-engine training group, METG, the pre-helicopter instrument phase, moved its operations to Whiting from Forrest Sherman NAS Pensacola.

During the 1960s, Whiting concentrated on T-28 basic prop training and in January 1965 began parallel T-28 basic instructional programs due to the increased number of students required to meet the augmented pilot training rate prompted by the Vietnam war. In 1965, the field underwent a major facelift as new living spaces replaced old WW II-era "splintervilles," together with a new training building and upgrades to both fields' runways and ramp areas.

In January 1972, as a result of yet another major reorganization of the Training Command, Whiting Field became the home of Training Air Wing 5. After 30 years of working with fixed-wing aviators, Whiting began rotary-wing activities. In November 1977, the first of the new T-34C Turbo Mentors arrived at Training Air Wing 5 to replace the primary-phase T-34B and the basic-phase T-28. By 1983, the last T-28 had been retired and all three North Field squadrons conducted primary and intermediate prop training. In the 1990s, VT-3's Red Knights were designated as the first joint primary training squadron. The era of joint Navy/USAF flight training had begun.

Madam Speaker, no one can deny the honorable and significant contributions NAS Whiting Field has made since it was dedicated in 1943. On behalf of the United States Congress and a grateful Nation, I wish to thank the men and women on NAS Whiting Field, both past and present, for 65 years of unwavering support of our Nation's defense.

#### TRIBUTE TO HOWARD DUVALL, JR.

#### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2008*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tremendous public servant, Howard Duvall, Jr. After 21 years of stellar service and visionary leadership, Howard is retiring from the South Carolina Municipal Association. His retirement is a great loss to the cities and towns of South Carolina, but we thank Howard for his dedication for so many years.

Howard Duvall is a product of the small South Carolina town of Cheraw, known to many as the birthplace of music legend Dizzy Gillespie. Howard left Cheraw to pursue an education, earning a B.A. in political science from the Citadel and an M.P.A. from the University of South Carolina. He served his country in the U.S. Air Force for 4 years, and continued his service as a member of the South Carolina Air National Guard for 3 years. Howard returned to Cheraw to work in his family's hardware business, and launched a life of public service soon thereafter. In 1974, Howard was elected a member of the Cheraw Town Council. Six years later, he was elected mayor of his beloved hometown.

In June 1986, Governor Dick Riley tapped Howard to serve as his executive assistant. In 1987, he was appointed to the South Carolina Tax Commission, and later that year, he became the director of Intergovernmental Relations for the South Carolina Municipal Association. This move became Howard's calling for the rest of his career. In 1992, he became the executive director of the Municipal Association, and has remained in that post for the last 16 years.

During this time, Howard's family has been his source of support. He has been married to Allianne Turner since 1965, and the two are the proud parents of two daughters and the grandparents of two.

Madam Speaker, I invite you and my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Howard Duvall for an outstanding career of public service. Howard has demonstrated a strong commitment to the small cities and towns that make South Carolina such a wonderful place to live, work and recreate. His leadership has made our State and Nation a better place, and his daily guidance will be sorely missed. I am proud to call Howard a friend, and I wish him a wonderful retirement and much happiness in his future endeavors.

#### HONORING ROBERT AMSDEN

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize, Robert Amsden a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Robert has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Robert has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Robert Amsden for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on September 9, 2008, I missed rollcall votes numbered 567, bill to designate the United States courthouse located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, as the "Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., United States Courthouse", 568, a bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, New York, as the "Theodore Roosevelt United States Courthouse"; and 569, the Child Soldiers Accountability Act of 2007.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 567, 568, and 569.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2008*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, on September 15, 2008, I missed three rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 1200, "yea" on H. Con. Res. 390 and "yea" on H.R. 6889.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF GUAM

#### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2008*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students, administrators, staff, and alumni of the Academy of Our Lady of Guam (AOLG) as they celebrate their sixtieth anniversary. Founded in September 8, 1948 by Bishop Apollinaris William Baumgartner, OFM Cap. and Sister Inez Underwood, RSM the AOLG is renowned for its college preparatory curriculum and continues as the sole Catholic high school for young women on Guam.

The AOLG is named after the patron saint of Guam, Santa Marian Kamalan, also known as Our Lady of Camarin. The 300 year old statue of Our Lady of Camarin is an icon in Chamorro culture. The AOLG lives the name of Our Lady of Camarin through the school's Christian centered approach to education and through a curriculum focusing on the development of the overall well being of its students.

The AOLG continues to excel in both academics and athletics. Over 90 percent of AOLG graduates pursue post-secondary education, and a growing number are accepted by the leading educational institutions.

More so, the AOLG has produced distinguished alumni in the fields of law, medicine, government, and engineering, as well as leaders in the business community.

I commend the Academy of Our Lady of Guam for its 60 years of continued service

and excellence to the people of Guam. I congratulate Academy of Our Lady of Guam President, Sr. Francis Jerome Cruz, R.S.M. and Principal Mary Meeks for their stewardship in the education of Guam's exceptional women. God bless the Academy of Our Lady of Guam and may they enjoy many more years of service to the people of Guam.

#### CONGRATULATING CARLOS ZAMBRANO ON PITCHING A NO-HITTER

#### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2008*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Carlos Zambrano of the Chicago Cubs on his no-hitter against the Houston Astros on Sunday. In addition to being Zambrano's first no-hitter, it was also the first no-hitter pitched by a Cub since 1972 and only the second in the majors this season. In throwing what some are calling a Zambrano-no, he led the Cubs in a 5-0 victory at Miller Park in Milwaukee.

Perhaps most remarkable about Zambrano's performance on Sunday is the unusual circumstances surrounding the game. Not only had Zambrano missed the last two weeks of games with a sore rotator cuff, but the devastation wrought by Hurricane Ike in Houston also forced Major League Baseball to relocate the game to Milwaukee. The crowd of over 23,000 was comprised of a lot of Cubs fans, and all of us Cubs fans are thankful that the Brewers opened up Miller Park for the occasion, and more importantly, we are thankful that the Astros players, fans and families were able to take their minds off of the storm for a few hours to share baseball history with us.

Carlos Zambrano made his major league debut for the Cubs in 2001 as a 20-year-old and has spent his entire professional career thus far with my hometown Chicago Cubs. He quickly made his mark as a premier pitcher in the league, earning a spot as a starter in 2003 and becoming the youngest Chicago Cub to pitch in an All-Star Game the next season. He is known not only for his abilities on the mound, but also for his enthusiasm for the game and his prowess with the bat.

On Sunday, Zambrano struck out 10 and walked one and was aided by the stellar defense of his teammates—specifically Derek Lee and Mark DeRosa, who both made great plays to keep the no-hitter alive. But in the end, Zambrano showed that his shoulder was A-OK as he continued to throw pitches upward of 95 miles per hour into the 9th inning, striking out the final batter of the game en route to his 14th victory of the season, putting the Cubs 7½ games up in the National League Central Division going into today's game.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Cubs' neighbors in Lakeview and throughout Chicagoland, I congratulate Carlos Zambrano and all of his Chicago Cubs teammates the first Cubs no-hitter in 36 years.